



108

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6 Nov 1494 <:::><:::><:::> 6 Sep 1566



TRUE GREATNESS IS
ACHIEVED BY
LIFTING OTHERS UP,
NOT BY PUSHING
THEM DOWN.

SOLEIMAN THE MAGNIFICENT



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Suleiman the Magnificent

<https://rideandseek.com/suleiman-the-magnificent/>



Portrait of Sultan Suleiman

Sultan Suleiman I inherited the throne of the Ottoman Empire at the age of 26. He was the only son of Selim I, who conquered Mecca, Medina, Jerusalem and Alexandria.

Suleiman I, (1494 – 1566), was known as 'The Magnificent' during his reign, because of his conquests and renowned wisdom. He was also known as 'The Lawgiver', although this epithet may date from the early 18th century. Under his administration, from 1520 until his death in 1566, the Ottoman Empire ruled more than 25 million people across Southern Europe and North Africa.

Suleiman The Magnificent had great ideals when he ascended the throne as a young man. He wanted to realise the goals of his great grandfather, Sultan Mehmed II. The basis of these goals was to establish a state comparable with the Roman Empire.

Suleiman began his reign with campaigns against the Christian strongholds in the Mediterranean region and central Europe. In 1521 he conquered Belgrade, then the island of Rhodes in 1522–23. In August 1526, the Janissaries, (the elite infantry of the Ottoman Empire), won a decisive victory against the Hungarian army at the Battle of Mohacs. Thus, the army of Sultan Suleiman found themselves outside the gates of Vienna.



Battle of Mohacs, 1526

Suleiman annexed much of the Middle East in his conflict with the Safavids, (a dynastic family that ruled over modern-day Iran) as well as large areas of North Africa, as far west as Algeria. Under his rule, the Ottoman fleet dominated the seas from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea and through the Persian Gulf.

The achievements of Suleiman the Magnificent had made him an important force in European politics. He followed the political and cultural developments in Europe closely. Thus, an alliance was formed with King Francis I of France against the Habsburg Monarchy. When Hungary fell, (the buffer state between Suleiman and Western Europe) the Ottoman Empire and the Holy Roman Empire became neighbours. This triggered a rivalry that would last for decades. Suleiman I and the Holy Roman emperor, Charles V, entered a struggle for supremacy in the Mediterranean.



Map of the Ottoman Empire, 1570

10 things you might not know about Sultan Suleiman I

1. Suleiman's army was stopped at the gates of Vienna. In the autumn of 1530, his forces laid siege to the great city. This was to be the Ottoman Empire's most ambitious expedition. With a reinforced garrison of 16,000 men, the Austrians inflicted the first defeat on Suleiman, sowing the seeds of a bitter Ottoman–Habsburg rivalry that lasted until the 20th century. His second attempt to conquer Vienna also failed, in 1532, as Ottoman forces were delayed by the siege of Güns and failed to reach the city. In both cases the Ottoman army was plagued by bad weather, forcing them to leave behind essential siege equipment. They were also restricted by overstretched supply lines. The Ottoman forces retreated from the outskirts of Vienna, but they would return again 150 years later.

2. As a young man, Suleiman befriended Pargali Ibrahim, a Greek slave, who later became one of his most trusted advisers. The two men had met at the Topkapi Palace, when Suleiman was still a prince. They studied together and were inseparable friends and also lovers. Ibrahim was promoted to the position of 'Grand Vizier', (the highest bureaucratic level of the state). He was known as 'Pargali Ibrahim' because he was born in the Greek town of Parga. Ibrahim had a Western mindset and had huge influence over the young Sultan. However, in later years, Ibrahim eventually fell from grace, following prolonged disagreements with the Sultan and his beloved wife, Hurrem Sultan. Suleiman recruited assassins and ordered them to strangle Ibrahim in his sleep.

3. Suleiman was infatuated with Hurrem Sultan, a harem girl from Ruthenia, then part of Poland. Western diplomats called her 'Roxelana', or 'Russelazie', referring to her Ruthenian origins. The daughter of an Orthodox priest, she was captured by Tatars from Crimea, sold as a slave in Constantinople, and eventually rose through the ranks of the Harem to become Suleiman's favourite. Hurrem, a former concubine, became the legal wife of the Sultan, much to the astonishment of the observers in the palace. He also allowed Hurrem Sultan to remain with him at court for the rest of her life, breaking another tradition. Normally when imperial heirs came of age, they would be dismissed, along with the imperial concubine who bore them, to govern remote provinces of the Empire.

4. Suleiman was a poet. He wrote under the pen name, Muhibbi, and composed this poem for Hurrem Sultan:

*Throne of my lonely niche, my wealth, my love, my moonlight.
My most sincere friend, my confidant, my very existence, my Sultan, my one and only love.
The most beautiful among the beautiful...
My springtime, my merry faced love, my daytime, my sweetheart, laughing leaf ...
My plants, my sweet, my rose, the one only who does not distress me in this room ...
My Istanbul, my karaman, the earth of my Anatolia
My Badakhshan, my Baghdad and Khorasan
My woman of the beautiful hair, my love of the slanted brow, my love of eyes full of misery
I'll sing your praises always
I, lover of the tormented heart, Muhibbi with eyes full of tears, I am happy.*



Portrait of Roxelana, titled Rossa Solymanni Vxor

5. This is Suleiman's most famous verse:

*The people think of wealth and power as the greatest fate,
But in this world a spell of health is the best state.
What men call sovereignty is a worldly strife and constant war;
Worship of God is the highest throne, the happiest of all estates.*

6. Wives and concubines: Suleiman had two known consorts, although, in total there were 17 women in his harem when he was a Şehzade, (a prince with imperial blood) Mahidevran Hatun, a Circassian, or Albanian concubine, was Suleiman's first wife. Suleiman's concubine and later legal wife, (married in 1533, or 1534) was Hurrem.

7. He had 8 sons and 5 daughters in total, although 4 of his progeny died during childhood.

8. White Tulips: Suleiman loved beautiful gardens. His horticulturists grew a white tulip in one of the gardens. Nobles in the court had seen the tulip and they also began growing their own tulips. Images of the white tulip were woven into rugs and fired into ceramics. Suleiman is credited with large-scale cultivation of the tulip and it is thought that the tulips spread throughout Europe because of Suleiman.

9. Death: On the 6th of September 1566, Suleiman, who had set out from Constantinople to command an expedition to Hungary, died, shortly before an Ottoman victory at the Siege of Szigetvár in Hungary. He was 71 years old.

10. Legacy: Sultan Suleiman and his close circle left a great legacy to Istanbul. Large mosques, baths and mausoleums were built. An architectural genius named Mimar Sinan became the palace architect in the 16th century. He added a new dimension to Ottoman architecture. Architectural development in this period continued after Suleiman's death. Mimar Sinan also served during the reign of Suleiman's son, Selim II and his grandson Murad III. Sinan built the Selimiye Mosque in Edirne, (formerly Adrianople) at the peak of his creative powers.



Selimiye Mosque in Edirne
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SULEIMAN THE MAGNIFICENT

https://www.worldhistory.org/Suleiman_the_Magnificent/

Suleiman the Magnificent (aka Süleyman I or Suleiman I, r. 1520-1566) was the tenth and longest-reigning sultan of the **Ottoman Empire**. Hailed as a skilled military commander, a just ruler, and a divinely anointed monarch during his lifetime, his realm extended from Hungary to Iran, and from Crimea to North **Africa** and the Indian Ocean. As he engaged in bitter rivalries with the Catholic Habsburgs and the Shiite Safavids, he presided over a multilingual and multireligious **empire** that promised peace and prosperity to its subjects.

Early Life

Suleiman was born in 1494 or 1495 in Trabzon, on the Black Sea coast. His father Selim served there as provincial governor, and his mother Hafsa was a concubine in his father's harem. Suleiman grew up in a multiethnic, multireligious town. While he led a privileged life, he also lived in a district where contagious diseases and food scarcity were rampant, even for the upper classes. He received an elite education under the supervision of tutors, including a strong poetic formation. He also received martial training, and he remained an avid and skilled horseman and hunter to the end of his life.

A TRULY GLOBAL EMPIRE, WITH A LARGE TERRITORY, A STAKE OVER GLOBAL COMMERCE, & A SOPHISTICATED CULTURAL IDENTITY BEGAN TO EMERGE UNDER SELIM.

Suleiman's adolescence and youth were spent under the shadow of his father Selim, a violent, overbearing man. As he reached puberty, like other Ottoman princes, he became eligible for service as district governor. Following a tense negotiation between his father and the **palace**, he was appointed to Caffa, in the Crimean Peninsula. His father Selim subsequently used Caffa as a center of operations in his bid to replace the ruling sultan, Bayezid II (r. 1481-1512). After becoming sultan in 1512, Selim I (r. 1512-1520) killed his brothers and nephews, stopped the advance of the millenarian Safavid movement into the Ottoman territories by defeating its leader Ismail in 1514, and occupied the Mamluk Sultanate of **Egypt** in 1516-17.

After his father Selim came to the throne, Suleiman was given another district governorship in western **Anatolia**. The resources at his disposal increased considerably, as he came to preside over a crowded household as the heir apparent. During Selim's campaigns, he acted as his father's proxy by relocating to Edirne, the gateway to the Balkan provinces, where he became acquainted with the management of the empire at the highest level.

These were the years during which Suleiman began stepping into the limelight of Ottoman political and cultural life. He began **writing** poetry, a sign of intellectual maturity as well cultural refinement. He also began having children with his concubines, securing the reproduction of the Ottoman dynasty, and transitioning from adolescence into fatherhood.

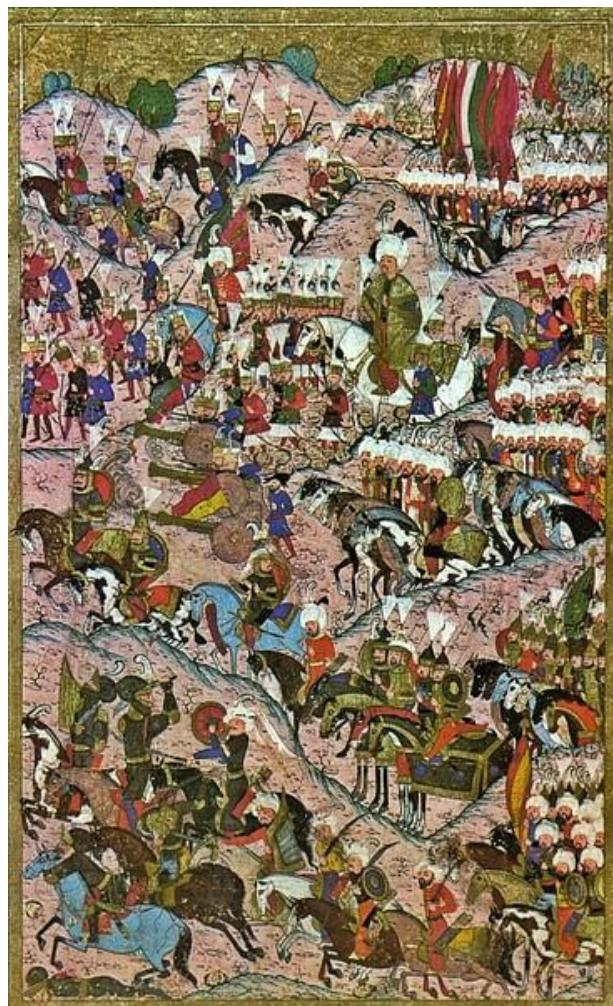
Suleiman's father Selim's control of the holy **cities** of Mecca and Medina, and his adamant struggle against non-Sunni **Islam**, gave a particular flavor to Ottoman religiopolitical identity in the years preceding Suleiman's arrival on the throne. Moreover, Selim's conquests to the east and south allowed the Ottomans to benefit from global commercial networks that extended overland from **China** to the west, and over the sea from the eastern **Mediterranean** and the Red Sea into the Indian Ocean. A truly global empire, with a large territory, a stake over regional and global commerce, and a sophisticated cultural identity, thus began to emerge under Selim. Suleiman inherited this imperial geography and mindset from his father and took it farther than ever imagined by any Ottoman ruler before him.

Rise to Power & Military Conquest

Suleiman came to the Ottoman throne in the fall of 1520, upon his father's **death**. In the absence of any nephews, uncles, or brothers who might contest his accession, his rise was at first sight effortless. That said, he had crucial disadvantages he had to overcome. He was not known to the large sections of the ruling elite, had not commanded any forces on the battlefield, and did not have his own clique within the ruling circles.

His first step was to promote himself as a just ruler, a virtue his father was not known for. His second step was to direct the Ottoman armies towards targets his father had ignored. He took Belgrade from the Hungarians in 1521; he captured **Rhodes** from the **Knights Hospitaller** in 1522; and he defeated Louis II of Hungary (r. 1516-1526) at the **Battle** of Mohács in 1526, thus ushering in the collapse of the Kingdom of

Hungary. His third step was to raise a household servant named İbrahim to the highest rank, the grand vizierate. This is also the time when he began a lifelong relationship with a concubine named Hürrem.



The Battle of Mohács
Unknown Artist (Public Domain)

After 1526, Suleiman faced many powerful rivals on the European front. These were the Habsburg brothers Ferdinand, Archduke of Austria (l. 1503-1564), and Charles V, Holy **Roman Emperor** (r. 1519-1556). As he competed with them over the control of Central **Europe**, Suleiman failed to take Vienna in 1529, and a large campaign he organized in 1532 produced mixed results. A costly stalemate began to emerge on the western frontiers of the Ottoman Empire. Suleiman then turned his attention to the East. A campaign against the Safavids, between 1534-36, captured large territories, including Baghdad, but failed to decisively defeat the Safavids and their supporters.

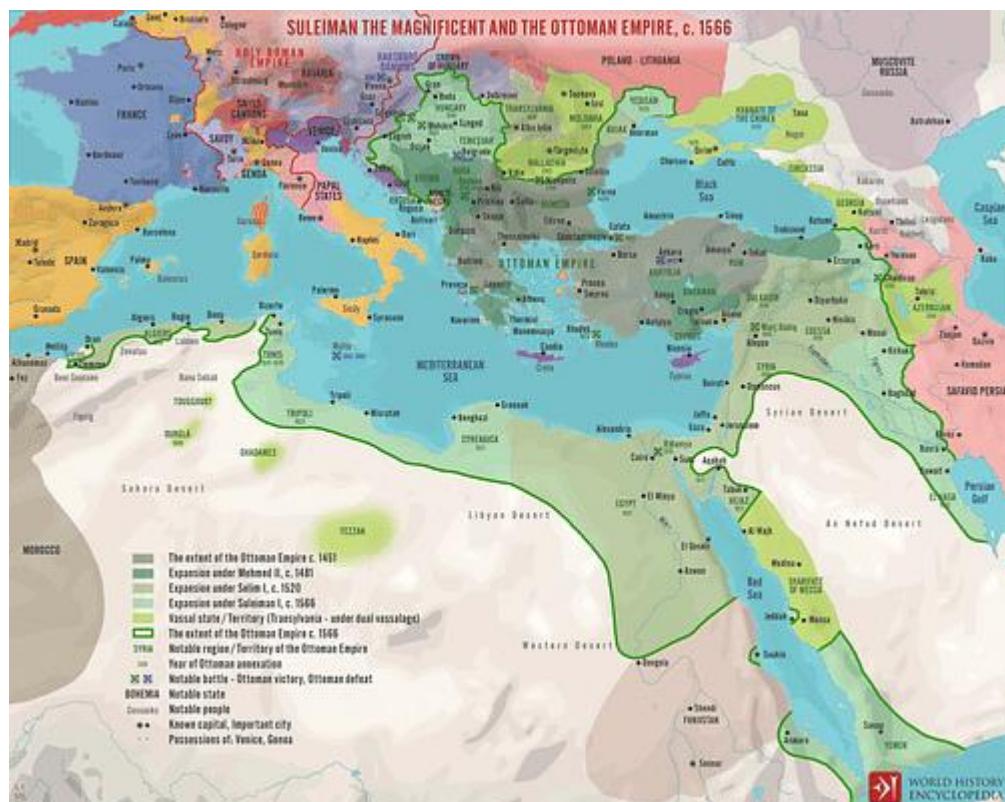
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**SULEIMAN & HIS CLOSE SUPPORTERS ARGUED THAT SULEIMAN
WAS THE ONE & TRUE EMPEROR ON EARTH.**

Suleiman's challenges were not only of a military nature. He constantly searched for new ways to present himself as a mighty emperor. With the help of his longtime companion and grand vizier İbrahim, he borrowed ideas from Central Asian and Islamic cultural traditions, such as the notion of a universal ruler born under the auspicious conjunction of the stars. He also toyed with European/Christian ideas, such as the Last

World Emperor. In the late 1520s and early 1530s, Suleiman increasingly presented himself as a messianic figure who would gather Islam and **Christianity** under a single mantle. His competition with Charles V was not only over the control of Central Europe and the Mediterranean but also over Charles' title of Holy **Roman** Emperor. Suleiman and his close supporters argued that Suleiman was the one and true emperor on earth.

While Suleiman's grand vizier and close companion İbrahim was executed on Suleiman's orders in 1536, the sultan found other collaborators who helped him manage the realm, notably his son-in-**law** Rüstem. In the 1530s and 1540s, Ottoman military ventures became even more prominent, with large-scale campaigns against the Safavids, clashes in east-central Europe, a stronger naval presence in the Mediterranean, and engagements in the Indian Ocean.



Suleiman the Magnificent and the Ottoman Empire, c. 1566

The bureaucratic apparatus was further extended to ensure the ruler's control over the resources. In addition, there were significant attempts at harmonizing the Sharia with dynastic law (*kanun*). There was an increasing emphasis on justice, both as a tool of empire management and as a universalist political ideal that demanded loyalty from the empire's subjects in return for peace and prosperity. Also in this period, Suleiman and Hürrem began creating their first large-scale charitable works, already mindful of their legacies.

Challenges

Starting with the early 1540s, everything around Suleiman reminded him that he was entering old age. There were grey flecks in his beard and hair. He got gout, whose debilitating pain affected him more and more despite his physicians' aggressive treatments. There were persistent, ever-growing rumors about him being replaced by one of his sons. He felt increasingly lonelier. His tutor Hayreddin, his constant

companion since adolescence, died. His favorite son Mehmed succumbed to a contagious disease at the tender age of 21.

His political life was filled with frustrations as well. In his early years on the throne, he had dreamed of subjugating all his enemies and ruling over East and West with justice. After many long and costly campaigns, what he had was a stalemate on both fronts, as his Habsburg and Safavid rivals initially retreated and then regrouped. As for his allies, such as the anti-Habsburg Hungarians and the French, he thought they were weak, uncommitted, and unreliable. Suleiman became an angry man. He openly scolded foreign envoys during audiences, abandoning his usually austere demeanor. He more and more consulted a geomancer to find out whether his health would improve, whether he would be able to remain on the throne, and whether he could conduct his armies to victory.

His life became even more complicated in the 1550s. He ordered the execution of a son on the suspicion of rebellion. A few years later, another son rebelled, was defeated, escaped to Iran, and was executed there on his instructions. All along, Suleiman's health continued to worsen. Then his beloved wife Hürrem died. The empire he had expanded and the bureaucratic machinery he had helped build suffered from overextension. Social and economic problems persisted, becoming increasingly more difficult to ignore as casual or haphazard occurrences.

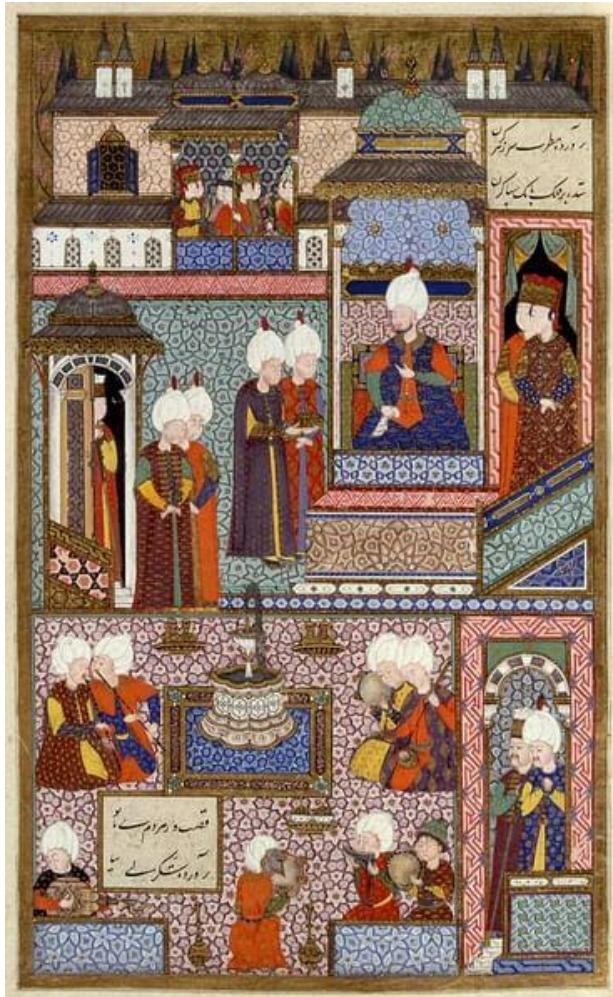
Art & Architecture

Once again, Suleiman rose to the challenges in front of him, and his answer was to create a self-curated legacy. He ordered the building of a major charitable complex centered around a mosque in **Constantinople**. He dotted the entire realm with signs of his charity and wealth, from bridges to waystations for pilgrims, from **aqueducts** to **city** walls, and from prayer houses large and small to soup kitchens.

As a lifelong reader and composer of poetry, he gathered his compositions together to leave behind his voice, perhaps the most intimate part of his legacy. He also decided to have the story of his reign written from his own perspective. The result was a lavishly illustrated history in versified Persian, called the *Sulaymannama* (also given as *Süleymannname* - "Book of Suleiman"). It described three and a half decades of Suleiman's sultanate, from his accession in 1520 to the mid-1550s. The work was composed by a court historian, calligraphed by a scribe, and decorated by artists.

Final Campaign & Death

On 1 May 1566, Suleiman left Constantinople at the head of the household troops. In old age, devastated by gout and digestive issues, he still had to personally lead his army to besiege a minor castle, to prove that he was healthy enough, powerful enough, sultan enough, to remain on the throne. In the early stages of the campaign, he continued to remain visible to his men on ceremonial occasions. By late July, however, he was too sick to ride on his horse even for short periods of time. Everything upset Suleiman. Roads turned to mud under the heavy rains, hampering the advance of the Ottoman forces. Supply chains began to break. Angry and tired, he took his frustrations out on his own men, ordering dismissals and public beatings.



Suleiman Is Being Entertained in the Great Palace
Unknown Artist (Public Domain)

By the time he arrived in front of the fortress of Szigetvár, the target of the campaign, he was exhausted. As the Ottomans laid siege to the fortress, his health continued to deteriorate. He died on the night of September 6/7, 1566, of natural causes, just before the fortress finally fell to Ottoman forces. Suleiman's corpse was washed, placed in a white shroud, and buried under his tent. Given the need for exhumation and eventual reburial in Constantinople, the corpse was preserved by being bound with wax-treated cloth strips and the application of perfumes and essences. The soldiers were not notified of the sultan's death, to prevent turmoil and rioting in the army camp. The news was shared only with a small group of confidants. Imperial decrees were issued in the name of the sultan, and physicians continued to enter his tent to create the semblance of ongoing treatment, while messengers were sent to his son Selim, the heir apparent.

A public funeral prayer for Suleiman was finally held outside Belgrade, on the way back, after his death was announced to the soldiers. His corpse was then sent to Constantinople, where another funeral prayer took place. He was buried next to the mosque he had built to his name, the Suleimaniye, near the **tomb** of his wife Hürrem. His worldly life thus ended. His myth, parts of it already built and circulating during his reign, began to live a life of its own.



Return from Szigetvár
Unknown Artist (Public Domain)

Legacy

Already during his lifetime, Suleiman was hailed as a skilled military commander, a just ruler, and a divinely anointed monarch. For his European contemporaries, who called him the "Grand Turk," he was an awe-inspiring figure. He presided over a large household and army, and his wealth was legendary. European observers of the time also depicted Suleiman as a tyrant whose conquests dealt mortal blows to Christianity and who cruelly ordered the murder of his own children and grandchildren. A similar ambiguity was exhibited by Suleiman's rivals farther east, the Safavids of Iran. Under the dual threat of military violence and accusations of heresy from their Sunni Ottoman neighbours, the Safavids treated him with a mixture of apprehension and grudging respect.

Suleiman's image was partly based on his exploits as a military commander. He personally travelled long distances, from the plains of Central Europe to the mountainous terrain of western Iran. His fleets sailed across the Mediterranean and into the Indian Ocean, and his armies marched into the Caucasus, Yemen, Hungary, and Austria. He is also remembered today for his contributions to Ottoman bureaucratic and legal practice. Indeed, after his death, authors have given him the moniker "Kanuni", i.e. "the formulator of dynastic law", under which name he is widely known today to Turkish-speaking audiences.

In the modern period, various conservative movements espoused Suleiman as a founding father for the ideal of a universalist Muslim empire built on bureaucratic efficiency and justice. From the beginning of the Cold War in the late 1940s to the

recent resurgence of new forms of political Islam, Suleiman was thus able to find a place in modern political discourses. As the global popularity of a recent Turkish-made television series, *The Magnificent Century*, attests, the life of Suleiman continues to fascinate audiences across a wide geography that extends from southeastern Europe, through North Africa and the Middle East, to Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Suleiman left behind a variety of legacies that continue to be debated today. Unlike many Ottoman rulers, he married a concubine from the harem and remained true to her most of his life; the level of love between them is obvious from Suleiman's poetry and Hürrem's letters. The advocacy of Sunni Islam as a political identity, next to a religious or cultural one, was another legacy that was further developed during his reign. A state-like administration was established during his reign to manage economic resources as well as legal matters across the realm. The growing emphasis on the supremacy of the law and the contractual relationship between the ruler and the ruled eventually changed the nature of the Ottoman polity.

Suleiman was contemporaries with figures similar to him, who either inherited dynastic enterprises that they subsequently expanded or built themselves. These included Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor, Francis I of France, and **Henry VIII of England** in Europe, Shah Ismail and Shah Tahmash in Iran, Ivan IV in Russia, and Babur and Akbar in **India**. Like Suleiman, these figures resorted to **warfare** as an instrument of empire-building, while they sought to establish control over their own elites and aristocracies, with whom they competed over available resources. They all paid particular attention to creating and maintaining a multilayered reputation as rulers, patrons, soldiers, statesmen, etc. They all sought to establish central control over religious matters during a time of intense theological debates and spiritual anxieties. They were also acutely aware of each other, and they openly competed among themselves for control of land and resources and for prestige.

A very modern form of rulership was crafted by these figures and their entourages in this period. The foundations of the modern states and bureaucracies, and of modern capitalist economies, were laid down, in the midst of the first genuine wave of globalization in human history. At the same time, Suleiman and those like him lived and worked in societies in which gender-based, racial, and religious hierarchies created conservative, male-centric social systems and political regimes. Our world today emerged from theirs, by destroying their world through the mechanism of the modern nation-state and industrial capitalism, but some of their hierarchical views, their ideas of leadership, and their politicized notions of **religion** are with us, still waiting to be surpassed.

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Suleiman the Magnificent



Suleiman the Magnificent

Suleiman I, in Turkish language *Süleyman* and in the Arabic alphabet سليمان (nicknamed "the Magnificent" in Europe and "the Lawgiver" in the *Islamic* World, in Turkish *el-Kanuni*), (November 6, 1494 - September 5-6, 1566) was the sultan of the *Ottoman Empire*, *Caliph of Islam* from 1520 to 1566, and successor to Selim I. He was born at Trabzon in modern *Turkey*.

Known as Suleiman the Magnificent but also, especially among Muslims, as Suleiman the Just, Ottoman power reached its zenith and became a world power under his rule. His rule represented one of the most just and orderly periods of Ottoman history. Like most rulers of the time, he was on the one hand ruthless in dealing with those he regarded as a threat to his own plans for success, but on the other hand, unlike many, he had a profound concern for justice. He codified the law to guard against corruption, which he was determined to root out. Many Muslims regard him as an example of the ideal or model ruler. Although the empire continued to expand for a century after his death, this period was followed by a very long decline mainly due to his successors' indifference toward good governance. On the borders of his empire, territorial expansion and hostility with competing powers meant that life was unstable, but for many within the empire, including minorities, the reality was a *pax ottomanica*. Suleiman can properly be regarded as one of history's more humane rulers who had a dual sense of obligation and responsibility to God and to society.

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Achievements

At the age of seven he was sent to study science, history, literature, theology, and military techniques in the schools of *Istanbul*. His early experience of government was as governor of several provinces, most notably Bolu in northern *Anatolia*, and his mother's homeland of Theodosia in Crimea at the age of 15. After succeeding his father after his death, Suleiman began a series of military conquests, starting with the capture of *Belgrade* in 1521. In 1522, he captured Rhodes after a siege, allowing the Knights Hospitaller (Knights of St. John, originally formed during the *Crusades*) to evacuate to *Malta*.

On August 29, 1526, Suleiman defeated Louis II of Hungary at the Battle of Mohács, occupying most of *Hungary* before giving it to John Zápolya, the prince of *Transylvania*, to govern. Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor and his brother Ferdinand, Archduke of *Austria*, retook Hungary, in response to which Suleiman twice tried to invade, being beaten twice by the weather after reaching *Vienna* in 1529 and 1532. In 1533, a treaty was signed with Ferdinand, splitting Hungary between the Habsburgs

and Zpolya. On Zpolya's death, Ferdinand was left the Hungarian territories, prompting Suleiman to annex Hungary, resulting in several struggles and peace treaties restoring the status-quo. [Martin Luther](#) wrote his tract, *On War Against the Turks* (1529) as a direct response to Suleiman's siege of Vienna. He responded to the political more so than to the religious threat, as he regarded the Turks and the Pope as "Anti-Christ." "Just as the Pope," he wrote, "is the Antichrist, so the Turk is the very devil incarnate" (Schultz, 1967: 181). The Turk was the "body," the latter the "spirit" of the Antichrist. The Turks were also, however, "people of the wrath of God," since Luther cautioned that unless Europeans repented of their sins, the Turks would triumph (184). Through the Turks, who were both "God's rod and the devil's servants," God was punishing Christians for their unbelief (170). Luther also wrote the tract because some Germans believed they might be better off under the Turks than under the Holy Roman Emperor (193). At the end of the tract, he commented that he doubted the book would earn him a gracious reception "should it come" to Suleiman's attention. Later, the sultan is said to have enquired about Luther, "When told that Luther was forty-eight years old, the Sultan replied, 'I wish he were younger; he would find me a gracious lord'" (205; FN 129). As [Bernard Lewis](#) (1993) points out, Suleiman's withdrawal was more of an orderly retreat than a defeat and "initiated a century and a half of stalemate during which the two empires—the Hapsburgs and the Ottomans—battled for the control of Hungary and ultimately of central Europe" (19).

In the following two decades, huge territories of North Africa west to [Morocco](#) and all of the Middle East north to [Persia](#) were annexed. This quick expansion was associated with naval dominance for a short period in the [Mediterranean Sea](#), [Red Sea](#), and [Persian Gulf](#). In 1562, he conquered Transylvania. He was not so successful in 1565 when the Knights of Malta succeeded in lifting the siege of [Malta](#) (1565), which began on May 18 and lasted until September 8. Suleiman believed that God wanted [Islam](#) to control the whole world and sincerely believed that the world was God's gift to the [Caliph](#) of Islam. Writing to the Sharif of [Mecca](#), he stated that God has "brought him to the throne...and to the position of the Caliphate." The Sharif replied that "By conquering the countries of the Franks and their likes, you are senior to us and to all the sultans of Islam" (Inalcik: 321).

While he may have been seen as dangerous to the outside world, he was known as a fair ruler within the empire who fought corruption and who was a great patron of artists and [philosophers](#). Many Muslims regards his rule as one of the best examples of good governance. He was also noted as one of the greatest [Islamic](#) poets and an accomplished goldsmith. He earned his nickname "the Lawmaker" from his complete reconstruction of the Ottoman law system. The laws that he gathered covered almost every aspect of life at the time. He acted against corrupt officials, especially those who overtaxed the population and on one occasion returned an overpayment of taxes to [Egypt](#). He liked to sit in secret on court hearings to ensure that justice was done. Famously, he reversed a death sentence in the case of the Christian Molla Kabiz who had asserted the superiority of [Jesus](#) over [Muhammad](#), saying that his arguments had not been disproved although in a later trial, they were judged to have been refuted. He appears to have had a genuine concern for the welfare of his subjects.

Suleiman died in 1566, the night before victory at the Battle of Szigetvar, in Hungary. He is buried in a mausoleum with his wife Roxelana (*Khourrem*) at the Süleymaniye Mosque, which was built for him by the famous architect, [Sinan](#).

At the time of his death, the major Muslim cities (Mecca, Medina, Jerusalem, Damascus, and Baghdad), many Balkan provinces up to today's Austria, and most of North Africa were under the control of the empire.

Rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem

By 1517 the [Islamic Ottoman Empire](#) under Selim I took [Palestine](#) from the Egyptian Mameluks (1250–1517). The Ottomans had a benevolent attitude towards the [Jews](#), having welcomed thousands of Jewish refugees who had recently been massacred and expelled from [Spain](#) by Ferdinand II of Aragon in 1492. The sultan was so taken with [Jerusalem](#) and its plight that he ordered that a magnificent surrounding fortress-wall be built around the entire city (which was not that large at the time). This wall still stands and can be seen today.

The succession struggle

Suleiman broke with convention by raising two slaves to positions of power. One, Damat Ibrahim Pasha rose to become Grand Vizier for 13 years. The other, a captured [Ukrainian](#) and daughter of a Eastern Orthodox Church priest, Anastasiya Lisovska (also known by several other names, including Roxelana and *Khourrem* (*Hürrem*)), was to rise through the ranks of the Harem to become his favorite wife, to the surprise of the empire and the international community. By her he had one daughter, Mihrimar (*Mihrumâh*), and the sons Mehmed (who died young), Selim II, Bayezid and Cihangir (born physically disabled).

In power struggles apparently instigated by Anastasiya Lisovska, Suleiman had İbrahim (a supporter of Süleyman's firstborn son Mustafa) murdered and replaced with Anastasiya's son-in-law, Rustem Pasha (Rustem Paşa). Later, apparently believing that his popularity with the army threatened his own position, he had Mustafa strangled, leaving the way clear for one of Anastasiya's sons.

In anticipation of Suleiman's death which, under the ruling practice of fratricide would also bring death to either Selim or Bayezid, the brothers engaged in a series of succession battles, resulting in Suleiman ordering the death of Bayezid, who was killed on September 25, 1561, after he was returned to the empire by the Shah after fleeing to [Iran](#). Therefore, it was Selim who eventually succeeded Suleiman, though he was to take little interest in government. Many Muslims regard Suleiman as an example of a Muslim leader approximating the ideal, his reign can also be regarded as a period of revitalization within Islam such as those that occur from time to time within religious and cultural traditions, similar to the Muslim belief that God raises up a reviver for each century. Certainly, his rule seems closer to the ideals of the rightly guided [Caliphs](#) than to the more despotic and godless rule of some of his own successors. [Luther](#), the great Protestant reformer, could only see Suleiman's role in negative terms—although Pope and Sultan hated "each other" they yet "stood together against Christ and his kingdom" (1967: 200). However, it could be argued that Suleiman, through his legal initiatives and his stand against corruption, was also a reformer.

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The Ottoman Empire

<https://www.metmuseum.org/learn/educators/curriculum-resources/art-of-the-islamic-world/unit-five/chapter-two/the-ottoman-empire>

Osman Gazi (reigned 1299–1324)—known in Italy as Ottomano, hence the English term Ottoman—was a Turkish tribal leader and the founder of the Ottoman dynasty. Through both warfare and diplomacy, he was able to unify inherited and captured lands under his rule. Successful military campaigns by his successors extended the empire deep into the Balkans to the north, and into Egypt and North Africa to the west, and eastward into the Caucasus and Anatolia.

In 1453, the city of Constantinople (present-day Istanbul), the capital of the Byzantine empire, was captured by the Ottoman sultan Mehmet II (reigned 1451–81). It remained the Ottoman capital until 1923. Mehmet II's leadership and legacy were instrumental in the steady growth of the empire in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

Ottoman cultural, political, and economic power reached its zenith under Sultan Süleyman I (reigned 1520–66), his son Selim II (reigned 1566–74), and his grandson Murad III (reigned 1574–95), who all ruled from the Topkapı Palace in Istanbul (fig. 25). Süleyman I was known in Turkey as Kanuni (the Lawgiver) because of the numerous legal reforms he made that shaped Ottoman law for many centuries. In the West, where he was both admired and feared, Süleyman became known as "the Magnificent"—a testament to his political and cultural achievements and his reputation as a wealthy and powerful ruler.

By the eighteenth century, despite repeated efforts to reform and modernize the army and civil institutions, the vast Ottoman empire started to decline. By the nineteenth century, many of its territories in North Africa, Europe, and West Asia were lost. In 1923, the modern

Turkish Republic, established by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, replaced the Ottoman state.



Topkapı Palace, Istanbul, Turkey, begun 1459



The dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, 1807-1924

Sublime Ottoman State

دولت علیہ عثمانیہ

• *Devlet-i 'Aliye-i 'Osmānīye*

c. 1299–1922



[Flag](#)
(1844–1922)



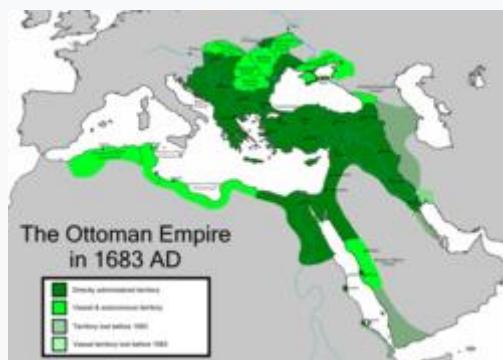
[Coat of arms](#)
(1882–1922)

Motto:

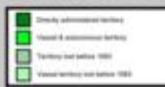
- دولت ابدیت
- *Devlet-i Ebed-müddet*
- "The Eternal State"

Anthem:

show
Various



The Ottoman Empire
in 1683 AD



The Ottoman Empire in 1481
The Ottoman Empire in 1566
The Ottoman Empire in 1683
The Ottoman Empire in 1739
The Ottoman Empire in 1914
Show all

Status

[Empire](#)

Capital

- [Söğüt](#)^[2]
- (c. 1299–1331)
- [Nicaea \(İznik\)](#)
- (1331–1335)
- [Bursa](#)
- (1335–1360s)
- [Adrianople \(Edirne\)](#)
- (1360s–1453)
- [Constantinople \(Istanbul\)](#)
- (1453–1922)

Official languages	Ottoman Turkish
Other languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arabic • Persian • Greek • Chagatai • French • many others
Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunni Islam (state) • School: Hanafi
Demonym(s)	Ottoman
Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absolute monarchy • (c. 1299–1876; 1878–1908; 1920–1922) • Unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy • (1876–1878; 1908–1920) • Unionist dictatorship • (1913–1918)
Sultan	
c. 1299–1323/4 (first)	Osman I
1918–1922 (last)	Mehmed VI
Caliph	
1517–1520 (first)	Selim I ^{[18][h]}
1922–1924 (last)	Abdülmejid II ^[i]
Grand vizier	
1320–1331 (first)	Alaeddin Pasha
1920–1922 (last)	Ahmet Tevfik Pasha
Legislature	General Assembly (1876–1878; 1908–1920)
Upper house (unelected)	Chamber of Notables (1876–1878; 1908–1920)
Lower house (elected)	Chamber of Deputies (1876–1878; 1908–1920)
History	
Founded	c. 1299
Interregnum	1402–1413
Conquest of Constantinople	29 May 1453
Constitutional Era I	1876–1878
Constitutional Era II	1908–1920
Ottoman coup d'état	23 January 1913
Sultanate abolished	1 November 1922
Republic of Turkey established	29 October 1923
Caliphate abolished	3 March 1924
Area	
1481	1,220,000 km ² (470,000 sq mi)
1521	3,400,000 km ² (1,300,000 sq mi)
1683	5,200,000 km ² (2,000,000 sq mi)

1913	2,550,000 km ² (980,000 sq mi)
Population	
1912	24,000,000
Currency	Akçe , sultani , para , kuruş (piastre), lira

The Ottoman Empire (/'ɒtəmən/ ①), also called the Turkish Empire, was an [imperial realm](#) that controlled much of [Southeast Europe](#), [West Asia](#), and [North Africa](#) from the 14th to early 20th centuries; it also controlled parts of southeastern [Central Europe](#), between the early 16th and early 18th centuries.

The empire emerged from a [beylik](#), or [principality](#), founded in northwestern [Anatolia](#) in c. 1299 by the [Turkoman](#) tribal leader [Osman I](#). His successors [conquered](#) much of Anatolia and expanded into the [Balkans](#) by the mid-14th century, transforming their [petty kingdom](#) into a transcontinental empire. The Ottomans ended the [Byzantine Empire](#) with the [conquest of Constantinople](#) in 1453 by [Mehmed II](#). With its capital at [Constantinople](#) (modern-day [Istanbul](#)) and control over a significant portion of the [Mediterranean Basin](#), the Ottoman Empire was at the centre of interactions between the [Middle East](#) and Europe for six centuries. Ruling over so many peoples, the empire granted varying levels of autonomy to its many confessional communities, or [millets](#), to manage their own affairs per [Islamic law](#). During the reigns of [Selim I](#) and [Suleiman the Magnificent](#), the Ottoman Empire became a [global power](#).

While the Ottoman Empire was once thought to have entered a [period of decline](#) after the death of Suleiman the Magnificent, modern academic consensus posits that the empire continued to maintain a flexible and strong economy, society and military into much of the 18th century. The Ottomans suffered military defeats in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, culminating in the [loss of territory](#). With [rising nationalism](#), a number of new states emerged in the Balkans. Following [Tanzimat](#) reforms over the course of the 19th century, the Ottoman state became more powerful and organized internally. In the [1876 revolution](#), the Ottoman Empire attempted [constitutional monarchy](#), before reverting to a royalist dictatorship under [Abdul Hamid II](#), following the [Great Eastern Crisis](#).

Over the course of the late 19th century, Ottoman intellectuals known as [Young Turks](#) sought to liberalize and rationalize society and politics along Western lines, culminating in the [Young Turk Revolution](#) of 1908 led by the [Committee of Union and Progress](#) (CUP), which reestablished [a constitutional monarchy](#). However, following the disastrous [Balkan Wars](#), the CUP became increasingly radicalized and nationalistic, [leading a coup d'état in 1913](#) that established a dictatorship.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, [persecution of Muslims during the Ottoman contraction](#) and [in the Russian Empire](#) resulted in large-scale loss of life and [mass migration](#) into modern-day [Turkey](#) from the [Balkans](#), [Caucasus](#), and [Crimea](#). The

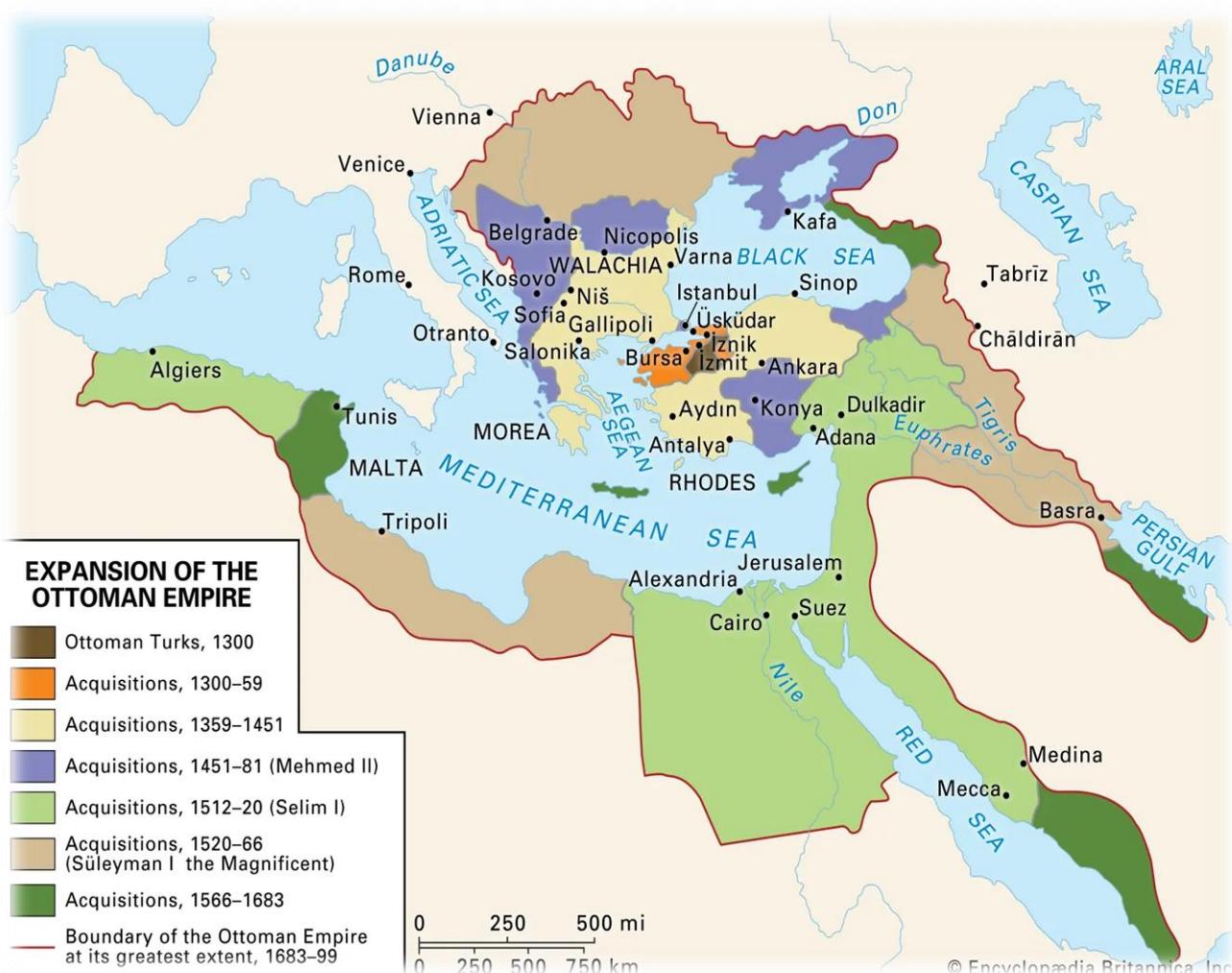
CUP joined World War I on the side of the Central Powers. It struggled with internal dissent, especially the Arab Revolt, and engaged in genocide against Armenians, Assyrians, and Greeks. In the aftermath of World War I, the victorious Allied Powers occupied and partitioned the Ottoman Empire, which lost its southern territories to the United Kingdom and France. The successful Turkish War of Independence, led by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk against the occupying Allies, led to the emergence of the Republic of Turkey and the abolition of the Ottoman monarchy in 1922.

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Ottoman Empire Timeline

<https://www.britannica.com/summary/Ottoman-Empire>

Early 14th century



The expansion of the Ottoman Empire is illustrated on this map.
Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

The nomadic Turkmen chief [Osman I](#) founds the Ottoman dynasty and empire in western [Anatolia](#) (Asia Minor). The name of the empire is derived from the Arabic form ('Uthmān) of his name.

1324–38



Orhan

Heritage Image Partnership/Alamy Osman's son and successor [Orhan](#) captures the city of Bursa from the [Byzantines](#) in 1324. (Some sources date the event to 1326.) Orhan is soon able to capture the remaining Byzantine towns in northwestern Anatolia: İznik (1331), İzmit (1337), and Üsküdar (1338).

1361

Orhan's son [Murad I](#) extends Ottoman conquests northward into [Thrace](#), culminating with the capture of Adrianople.

1444–81



Explore the Ottoman Empire's army and its powerful archery unit
Learn about the Ottoman Empire's army, which was renowned for its archers.

Much of Anatolia falls to the Ottomans during the reign of [Mehmed II](#) (ruled 1444–46 and 1451–81). It is he who captures Constantinople (Istanbul) in 1453 and makes it the capital of the Ottoman Empire. Mehmed lays the foundations for Ottoman rule in Anatolia and southeastern Europe.

1481–1512

[Bayezid II](#) reigns during this period. Bayezid extends the Ottoman Empire in Europe, adds outposts along the Black Sea, and puts down revolts in Anatolia. He also captures Venetian ports to establish bases for complete Ottoman naval control of the eastern Mediterranean.

1512–20

Bayezid's successor, [Selim I](#), comes to the throne in 1512. He establishes firm control over the army. During his reign, which lasts until 1520, the Ottomans move south- and eastward into Syria, Arabia, and Egypt. Selim doubles the size of the empire, adding to it all the lands, except Iran and Mesopotamia, that had made up the Islamic state known as the Caliphate. By acquiring the holy places of [Islam](#), Selim cements his position as the religion's most powerful ruler. Leading Muslim intellectuals, artists, artisans, and administrators come to Constantinople from all parts of the Arab world. They make the empire much more of a traditional Islamic state than it had been.

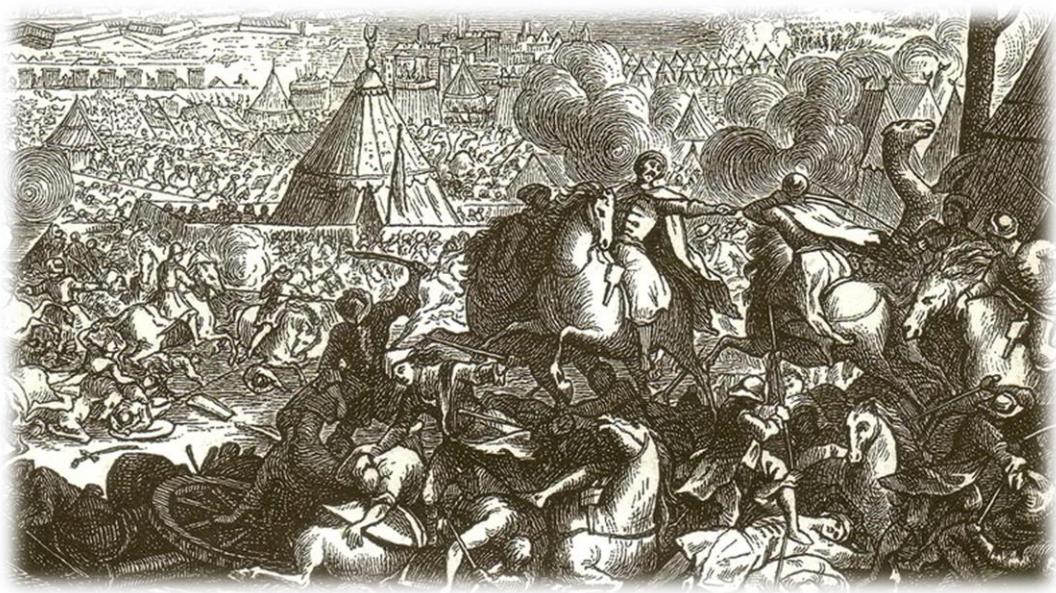
1520–66



The Mosque of Süleyman, designed by the architect Sinan, was built in Constantinople (Istanbul) in the 1550s.

[Süleyman I](#) (also known as Süleyman the Magnificent) becomes the Ottoman sultan in 1520. He captures Belgrade (now in Serbia) in 1521 and Rhodes (now part of Greece) in 1522–23. He breaks the military power of Hungary. In 1529 he lays siege to Vienna but is forced to withdraw for lack of supplies. He also wages three campaigns against Persia (Iran). In addition, Süleyman establishes the Ottoman Empire as a major naval power. Algiers in North Africa falls to his navy in 1529 and Tripoli (now in Libya) is defeated in 1551. During Süleyman's long reign (1520–66) the Ottoman Empire is at the height of its political power. **Aside from his military victories, Süleyman is noted for building many mosques, aqueducts, bridges, and other public works.**

Late 17th and 18th centuries



Learn about the history of the battle of Vienna, 1683. Vienna withstood several sieges by the Ottoman Turks, most notably in 1683.

The Ottomans fail in their final attempt (1683) to capture the city of Vienna. This and subsequent losses lead them to relinquish Hungary in 1699. The empire continues to weaken in the 18th century, losing a great deal of territory.

1839–76



[Abdülaziz](#)

[Abdülmecid I](#) (ruled 1839–61) and [Abdülaziz](#) (ruled 1861–76) carry out a number of reforms, especially in the areas of education and law. However, a lack of money and of skilled men handicaps the sultans. In addition, traditionalists argue that their reforms are destroying the empire's Islamic character. Meanwhile, pressure from major European powers makes it difficult for the sultanate to consolidate its powers. The empire comes to be called the "sick man of Europe."

1876–1923

Abdülhamid II rules the Ottoman Empire from 1876, but a revolutionary group, known as the Young Turks, arises in opposition to his authoritarian regime and deposes the sultan by 1909. The Ottomans fight on Germany's side in World War I (1914–18). Ottoman defeat in the war inspires an already fervent Turkish nationalism. The postwar settlement (1920), which greatly reduces Ottoman territory, outrages the nationalists. A new government under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal, known as Atatürk, emerges at Ankara, Turkey. The last Ottoman sultan, Mehmed VI, flees in 1922 after the sultanate is abolished. Turkey is proclaimed a republic in 1923. Atatürk serves as its first president.

(☺)(☺)@@@@@(☺)(☺)

 <p><u>Ottoman miniature of Osman I</u> by Yahya Bustanzâde (18th century)</p>	 <p>The <u>Battle of Nicopolis</u> in 1396, as depicted in an <u>Ottoman miniature</u> from 1523</p>
 <p><u>Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror's entry into Constantinople</u>; painting by <u>Fausto Zonaro</u> (1854–1929)</p>	 <p><u>Suleiman the Magnificent</u> and his wife <u>Hürrem Sultan</u>, by 16th century <u>Venetian painter Titian</u></p>
 <p><u>Ottoman miniature of the Battle of Mohács</u> in 1526</p>	 <p><u>Ottoman admiral Barbarossa Hayreddin Pasha</u> defeated the <u>Holy League of Charles V</u> under the command of <u>Andrea Doria</u> at the <u>Battle of Preveza</u> in 1538.</p>



Late 16th or early 17th century Ottoman galley known as Tarihi Kadirga at the Istanbul Naval Museum, built in the period between the reigns of Sultan Murad III (1574–1595) and Sultan Mehmed IV (1648–1687)



Order of battle of the two fleets in the Battle of Lepanto, with an allegory of the three powers of the Holy League in the foreground, fresco by Giorgio Vasari



The Second Siege of Vienna in 1683, by Frans Geffels (1624–1694)



Ottoman troops attempting to halt the advancing Russians during the Siege of Ochakov in 1788



Austrian troops led by Prince Eugene of Savoy capture Belgrade in 1717. Austrian control in Serbia lasted until the Turkish victory in the Austro-Russian-Turkish War (1735–1739). With the 1739 Treaty of Belgrade, the Ottoman Empire regained northern Bosnia, Habsburg Serbia (including Belgrade), Oltenia and the southern parts of the Banat of Temeswar.



Selim III receiving dignitaries during an audience at the Gate of Felicity, Topkapı Palace. Painting by Konstantin Kapidaglı



The siege of the Acropolis in 1826–1827 during the Greek War of Independence



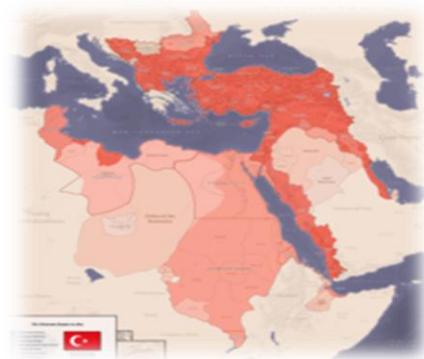
Opening ceremony of the First Ottoman Parliament at the Dolmabahçe Palace in 1876. The First Constitutional Era lasted only two years until 1878. The Ottoman Constitution and Parliament were restored 30 years later with the Young Turk Revolution in 1908.



Ottoman troops storming Fort Shefketil during the Crimean War of 1853–1856



The Kings of Europe are in Paris (Napoleon III is at the centre, Sultan Abdulaziz is second from right) for the opening of the Universal Exposition of 1867



The Ottoman Empire in 1875 under Sultan Abdulaziz



Declaration of the Young Turk Revolution by the leaders of the Ottoman millets in 1908



Admiral Wilhelm Souchon, who commanded the Black Sea raid on 29 October 1914, and his officers in Ottoman naval uniforms



The Armenian genocide was the result of the Ottoman government's deportation and ethnic cleansing policies regarding its Armenian citizens after the Battle of Sarikamish (1914–1915) and the collapse of the Caucasus Front against the Imperial Russian Army and Armenian volunteer units during World War I. An estimated 600,000 to more than 1 million, or up to 1.5 million people were killed.



Mehmed VI, the last Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, leaving the country after the abolition of the Ottoman sultanate, 17 November 1922



Topkapı Palace and Dolmabahçe Palace were the primary residences of the Ottoman sultans in Istanbul between 1465 and 1856 and 1856 to 1922, respectively.



Ambassadors at the Topkapı Palace



Yusuf Ziya Pasha, Ottoman ambassador to the United States, in Washington DC, 1913



An unhappy wife complaining to the Qadi about her husband's impotence, as depicted in an Ottoman miniature. Divorce is allowed in Islamic law and can be initiated by either the husband or the wife.



An Ottoman trial, 1877



Ottoman sipahis in battle, holding the crescent banner, by Józef Brandt



Modernised Ertugrul Cavalry Regiment crossing the Galata Bridge in 1901



The Ottoman fleet in the Bosphorus near Ortaköy



Ottoman pilots in early 1912



A European bronze medal from the period of Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror, 1481



The Ottoman Bank was founded in 1856 in Constantinople. On 26 August 1896, the bank was occupied by members of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation.



Izmir under Ottoman rule in 1900



View of Galata (Karaköy) and the Galata Bridge on the Golden Horn, c. 1880-1893



The town of Safranbolu is one of the best preserved Ottoman villages.



Abdülmecid II was the last caliph of Islam and a member of the Ottoman dynasty.



The Yıldız Hamidiye Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey



Mehmed the Conqueror and Patriarch Gennadios II



Ethnic map of the Ottoman Empire in 1917.
Black = Bulgars and Turks, Red = Greeks,
Light yellow = Armenians, Blue = Kurds,
Orange = Lazs, Dark Yellow = Arabs, Green
= Nestorians



The original Church of St. Anthony of Padua, Istanbul was built in 1725 by the local Italian community of Istanbul.



Hemdat Israel Synagogue of Istanbul



Depiction of a hookah shop in Lebanon



The Beyazıt State Library was founded in 1884.



Ahmet Nedim Efendi, one of the most celebrated Ottoman poets



Süleymaniye Mosque in Istanbul, designed by Mimar Sinan in the 16th century and a major example of the Classical Ottoman style



Blue Mosque in Istanbul, an example of the classical style of Ottoman architecture, showing Byzantine influence.



Turkish women baking bread, 1790



Members of Beşiktaş J.K. in 1903



The Constantinople observatory of Taqi ad-Din in 1577



Girl Reciting the Qurān (Kuran Okuyan Kız), an 1880 painting by the Ottoman polymath Osman Hamdi Bey, whose works often showed women engaged in educational activities

List of Revolts under Suleiman the Magnificent

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_revolts_under_Suleiman_the_Magnificent

During Suleiman's reign there were few major and several minor revolts throughout the Ottoman Empire. This is a list of the few major revolts.

Revolts

No.	Year	Location	Notes
1	1521	Damascus	Revolt by the ruler of Damascus. Selim I appointed Canberdi Gazali as a government of Damascus. After the death of Selim I, Canberdi Gazali made himself independent ruler, but Aleppo refused to join him in his revolt. Suleiman's army killed Canberdi Gazali near Damascus on 27 January 1521.
2	1523–1524	Egypt	Revolt by the so-called the Sultan of Egypt Hain Ahmed Pasha.
3	1526–1528	Anatolia	Disturbances in eastern Anatolia.
5	1555	Thessaloniki	Revolt by a false Prince Mustafa.
6	1559	Konya	Revolt by his son Şehzade Beyazıt. Prince Şehzade Beyazıt was jealous of his brother Selim II. As a consequence of his jealousy, Beyazıt raised the revolt at Konya (Konish). Suleiman made preparations for a campaign against his son Beyazıt, but he renounced campaigning upon the latter's retreat to Persia. Tahmasp I eventually sold Beyazıt and his children to the emissary of Selim, by whom they were tortured and killed.

The last days of Suleiman the Magnificent

<https://www.dailysabah.com/feature/2018/09/12/the-last-days-of-suleiman-the-magnificent>

Despite his old age, Suleiman I, one of the greatest sultans that ever ruled the Ottoman Empire, went on a campaign knowing that he might not return. During the siege of Szigetvar, his vizier hid his sudden death from the soldiers to preserve the morale of the troops

Suleiman I, known as Suleiman the Magnificent, decided to officiate a campaign in Austria in 1566 despite his old age and the fact he was suffering from illness.

He visited the tombs of Abu Ayyub al-Ansari and ancestors before campaigning and gave vast amounts of alms to poor people at these tombs. On April 29, 1566, the sultan and statesmen departed from Istanbul amidst a great ceremony.

Last campaign

The sultan left Istanbul wearing white clothes, riding his horse, followed by his cortege. Historians of the period say that the sultan resembled a minaret of divine light with his white beard and clothes.

Suleiman I campaigned even though he physically had little energy left. On the road, his illness acted up again and the sultan was taken to a carriage with the help of Sokollu Mehmed Pasha. Going to Szigetvar in the carriage, the sultan mounted the horse when they reached the city center despite his illness in order to not overshadow the fame of the monarchy.

They performed a situational assessment when they reached Belgrade. The first intention was to conquer the Eger Castle but the information received from the borders said that it was the stronghold at Szigetvar which was more of a threat to the Ottoman lands. Thereupon, the army re-directed to Szigetvar. It was comprised of four castles that were linked to each other and surrounded by water canals and known to be hard to conquer.

When they arrived at Szigetvar, Suleiman I, who rode his horse in order to reassure the soldiers then went to his tent, walking after dismounting the horse.

The siege of Szigetvar started on Aug. 7, 1566. The sultan, who could not go out because of his illness, followed it from his tent. The old sultan's illness was getting worse but the castle could not be taken in any way.

As the period of the siege got longer, the sultan said: "This castle burned my heart, I beg of God it will burn into flames." After awhile, Szigetvar was conquered.

The Austrians, who could not keep up resistance, retreated to the castle, setting fire to the city. The Ottoman artillerymen started to target the castle but nothing could dismay the strong commander Nikola VII Zrinski.

Sokollu Mehmed Pasha tried hard and did his best to conquer the castle as soon as possible. He was sleeping alongside the soldiers in the trenches on some nights. He even narrowly escaped death.

On the last days of the siege, the illness of the sultan got even worse and rumors spread in waves among the soldiers.

Finally, a bomb installed by a Turkish bodyguard who climbed the castle walls created a gap in the wall, and on Sept. 5 as Ottoman soldiers started to enter the castle via this gap, Zrinski, who saw that there was no defense possible, retreated into the inner castle.

Sultan's death hidden

While Szigetvar was about to fall, Suleiman the Magnificent passed away on the night of Sept. 7. The siege was coming to the end. In such a situation, the death knell of the sultan could cause the one-month-long effort go down the drain if it was heard among the soldiers. The Grand Vizier, Sokollu Mehmed Pasha, ordered those who knew of the death to keep it a secret. He also said the sultan would be buried under where he had lived, after all the necessary procedures were performed. The body of the sultan was put under his throne temporarily after his internal organs were taken out, musk and amber smells were applied and a funeral prayer was secretly performed. A man also laid the bed of the sultan like a patient.

With the encouragement of the grand vizier, preparations for the last attack were made. The Ottoman soldiers took the inner castle, the last point of resistance in Szigetvar, in a short time. Therefore, Szigetvar was conquered on Sept. 7.

The Grand Vizier Shahzade Selim II (the son of the sultan), the only successor to the throne and Sanjak-bey of Kütahya, managed the conquest of the castle, sending a letter reporting his father's death.

He spent time around Szigetvar so that Shahzade Selim could reach the army. When he learned that Selim II had passed Rumelia, the grand vizier directed the army to Belgrade.

As they got closer to the castle, hafiz people started to read the Quran. The officials around the sultan who understood the situation wore black turbans. The knell spread; the whole army started to lament and cry. There was a moment when the soldiers stopped walking. They were crying and saying "Hay Sultan Suleiman."

Sokollu Mehmed Pasha went up to the soldiers and asked them why they stopped walking. "Brothers, fellows... Let's bid farewell to the Islam Sultan of

many years with the Quran. He made Hungary an Islamic country. He fed all of us with his benevolence. Is this our response to him? Aren't we going to carry him over our heads? His son Selim II waited for you for 17 days in Belgrade. Our late sultan spoke in his will about our wage increase and tips to him. Do not stop hafiz people! The cure for our pain is the Quran," he said and calmed the soldiers.

Funeral prayers

Selim II met the funeral of his father, whose death was kept a secret for 42 days, by wearing a black kaftan. People prayed in front of the carriage which carried the sultan's body. His coffin was put on the coffin rest, and the second funeral prayer was performed. Later, the sultan's funeral set off for Istanbul with another group, apart from the army, and was met by the cries and prayer of people along the way.

The funeral of Suleiman the Magnificent was brought to the place where his tomb was planned to be built in the Süleymaniye Mosque after a third funeral prayer was performed by Shaykh al-Islam Ebussuud Efendi.

A tent was set up over the grave as the tomb was not built yet. The sultan was buried in the grave that was prepared under the supervision of Mimar Sinan. Thus, a chapter of history came to a close.

Suleiman the Magnificent

Suleiman I was 72 when he died and he was on the throne for 46 years. He was the one who stayed the longest on the throne among the Ottoman sultans. His period was so magnificent that those who wrote reform projects in the 17th century, the depression years of the Ottoman Empire, spoke of this period as the "Golden Age," to which they should return. The sultan was a tall man who has a round face, hazel eyes, distinct eyebrows and a falcon nose. He liked to chat with scholars and poets. He was a skillful artisan in jewelry, which he learned to make when he was a shahzade. He wrote poems under the pen

name Muhibbi. He was good at using swords and liked hunting. It is said that he knew Arabic, Farsi and some Slavic languages along with the Tatar dialect. The title of Kanuni, which means the "lawgiver" in Ottoman Turkish, was not adopted by him or given to him by the poets of the period. He was known as the Suleiman the Magnificent or the Great Turk by the European writers of his period. According to the research of Feridun Emecen, the title of "Kanuni" was used by Dimitri Kantemir, who wrote about Ottoman history in the 18th century. Kantemir gave this title to him, focusing on his lawmaking. The next generation of poets adopted this and called him Kanuni.

Kindly view these Videos:

[A] Death of Sultan Suleiman the Great Turk

The Magnificent Century takes leave with a breathtaking final episode. Suleiman gets plunged into darkness after Bayezid died and he gets even sicker. Selim tries to relieve his pain falling back upon alcohol. Defne fights with all her strength to be able to protect her son. She understands there's no way out while she sees Nurbanu in front of her. The mother and her son walk towards the death holding onto each other. Mihrimah gets Nurbanu in a big trouble flaming with vengeance. Gulfer tries to kill Suleiman considering he is the responsible of everything has happened. However, the night ends with a dark secret. After the agony, Selim comes in the capital as the only heir to the throne. Mihrimah severs all ties with Selim since she sees him as a fratricide. Suleiman loses his strength day by day and gets furious when he hears what his people talk about him. And Suleiman the Magnificent goes for his last journey in a blaze of glory. An era ends while Suleiman the Sultan of the world gasps his life out! At the age of 26, when he ascended to the throne, Sultan Suleiman aimed to build an empire more powerful than Alexander the Great and to render the Ottomans invincible. Throughout his 46-year reign, he became the greatest warrior and ruler of both East and West. The young Suleiman received news of his succession to the throne during a hunting party in 1520. Unaware that he would be ruling a reign beyond his dreams, he left behind his wife son and took to the road with his close friend and companion Pargali Ibrahim to reach the Topkapi Palace in Istanbul. As they started their journey overland, an Ottoman ship set sail from Crimea in the Black Sea, bringing female slaves as gifts for the Ottoman palace... On this ship was Alexandra La Rossa, the daughter of a Ukrainian Orthodox minister, taken away from her family and sold to the Crimean palace. She had no idea that she would become Hurrem, wife of Sultan Suleiman and mother of princes, ruling the empire with him through bloodshed and intrigue. As Sultan Suleiman conquered the world, his great passion for Hurrem would clash with his love for and trust in his closest friend and advisor, Grand Vizier Pargali Ibrahim, all set against the backdrop of the tension between Christian Europe and the Ottoman Empire in the 16th century. Cast: Halit Ergenç, Nebahat Çehre, Meryem Uzerli, Okan Yalabık, Nur Aysan, Selma Ergeç, Sema Keçik, Filiz Ahmet, Selim Bayraktar, Selen Öztürk, Nihan Büyükağaç, Burcu Tuna, Merve Oflaz, Arif Erkin, Ali Uyandıran, Alp Öyken, Murat Tüzün, Doğan Turan, Gökhan Çelebi, Yüksel Ünal.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54Bc12VaUIQ> [29:03]

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[B] Death of Sultan Suleiman, Ruler of World

The Magnificent Century takes leave with a breathtaking final episode. Suleiman gets plunged into darkness after Bayezid died and he gets even sicker. Selim tries to relieve his pain falling back upon alcohol. Defne fights with all her strength to be able to protect her son. She understands there's no way out while she sees Nurbanu in front of her. The mother and her son walk towards the death holding onto each other. Mihrimah gets Nurbanu in a big trouble flaming with vengeance. Gülfem tries to kill Suleiman considering he is the responsible of everything has happened. However, the night ends with a dark secret. After the agony, Selim comes in the capital as the only heir to the throne. Mihrimah severs all ties with Selim since she sees him as a fratricide. Suleiman loses his strength day by day and gets furious when he hears what his people talk about him. And Suleiman the Magnificent goes for his last journey in a blaze of glory. An era ends while Suleiman the Sultan of the world gasps his life out! At the age of 26, when he ascended to the throne, Sultan Suleiman aimed to build an empire more powerful than Alexander the Great and to render the Ottomans invincible. Throughout his 46-year reign, he became the greatest warrior and ruler of both East and West. The young Suleiman received news of his succession to the throne during a hunting party in 1520. Unaware that he would be ruling a reign beyond his dreams, he left behind his wife son and took to the road with his close friend and companion Pargali Ibrahim to reach the Topkapi Palace in Istanbul. As they started their journey overland, an Ottoman ship set sail from Crimea in the Black Sea, bringing female slaves as gifts for the Ottoman palace... On this ship was Alexandra La Rossa, the daughter of a Ukrainian Orthodox minister, taken away from her family and sold to the Crimean palace. She had no idea that she would become Hurrem, wife of Sultan Suleiman and mother of princes, ruling the empire with him through bloodshed and intrigue. As Sultan Suleiman conquered the world, his great passion for Hurrem would clash with his love for and trust in his closest friend and advisor, Grand Vizier Pargali Ibrahim, all set against the backdrop of the tension between Christian Europe and the Ottoman Empire in the 16th century. Cast: Halit Ergenç, Nebahat Çehre, Meryem Uzerli, Okan Yalabık, Nur Aysan, Selma Ergeç, Sema Keçik, Filiz Ahmet, Selim Bayraktar, Selen Öztürk, Nihan Büyükağaç, Burcu Tuna, Merve Oflaz, Arif Erkin, Ali Uyandıran, Alp Öyken, Murat Tüzün, Doğan Turan, Gökhan Çelebi, Yüksel Ünal.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fK1eKhbqkiI> [55:33]

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[C] Sultan Suleiman Went into Deep Mourning

Life stops for Suleiman in Hurrem's absence. While, Hurrem's children grieves after her death, Suleiman leaves his magnificence and falls into silence. Everything changes in the palace. Selim wants Rustem to take his own side. Rustem gets cornered by the big secret Selim learns about him. A new war begins between Nurbanu and Defne. Mihrimah suspects that Rustem and Gracia are having an affair and threatens Gracia. Selim tells everything he had with Bayezid. As Bayezid tries to defend himself he gets betrayed. Mihrimah finds out about what happened and confronts with Selim. Suleiman inflicts a meaningful punishment on Bayezid. Bayezid gets subjected to injustice and

shows a red flag. An eternal winter begins for Suleiman after Hurrem's death. Suleiman leaves the magnificence in palace and falls into a deep silence. Hurrem's death will change not only Suleiman's life but everyone's. Bayezid loses his biggest support after his mother's death. However, Selim wants to take Rustem on his side. Rustem gets cornered after Selim finds out his secret even though he is determined to stay loyal to Bayezid. Nurbanu declares her era has begun. Nurbanu gets shocked by what the fortune teller who has oracled to Hurrem tells her. At the age of 26, when he ascended to the throne, Sultan Suleiman aimed to build an empire more powerful than Alexander the Great and to render the Ottomans invincible. Throughout his 46-year reign, he became the greatest warrior and ruler of both East and West. The young Suleiman received news of his succession to the throne during a hunting party in 1520. Unaware that he would be ruling a reign beyond his dreams, he left behind his wife son and took to the road with his close friend and companion Pargali Ibrahim to reach the Topkapi Palace in Istanbul. As they started their journey overland, an Ottoman ship set sail from Crimea in the Black Sea, bringing female slaves as gifts for the Ottoman palace... On this ship was Alexandra La Rossa, the daughter of a Ukrainian Orthodox minister, taken away from her family and sold to the Crimean palace. She had no idea that she would become Hurrem, wife of Sultan Suleiman and mother of princes, ruling the empire with him through bloodshed and intrigue. As Sultan Suleiman conquered the world, his great passion for Hurrem would clash with his love for and trust in his closest friend and advisor, Grand Vizier Pargali Ibrahim, all set against the backdrop of the tension between Christian Europe and the Ottoman Empire in the 16th century. Cast: Halit Ergenç, Nebahat Çehre, Meryem Uzerli, Okan Yalabık, Nur Aysan, Selma Ergeç, Sema Keçik, Filiz Ahmet, Selim Bayraktar, Selen Öztürk, Nihan Büyükağaç, Burcu Tuna, Merve Oflaz, Arif Erkin, Ali Uyandıran, Alp Öyken, Murat Tüzün, Doğan Turan, Gökhan Çelebi, Yüksel Ünal.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuPQPxA1rnA>

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bibliography_of_the_Ottoman_Empire

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[A] List of Ottoman conquests, sieges and landings

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Ottoman_conquests,_sieges_and_landings

[B] 16 Great Turkic Empires

The 16 Great Turkic Empires ([Turkish](#): 16 Büyük Türk Devleti, lit. 'Sixteen Great [Turkic States](#)') is a concept in [Turkish nationalism](#) introduced in 1969 by [Akib Özbek](#), map officer and widely invoked by Turkish authorities during the 1980s, under the government of [Kenan Evren](#).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/16_Great_Turkic_Empires

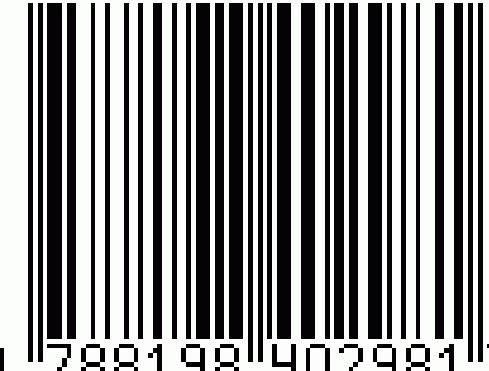
[C] Outline of the Ottoman Empire

The following [outline](#) is provided as an overview of and topical guide to the Ottoman Empire:

[Ottoman Empire](#) - historical [Muslim](#) empire that lasted from c. 1299 to 1922. It was also known by its European contemporaries as the [Turkish Empire](#) or [Turkey](#) after the principal ethnic group.^[1] At its zenith from the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries it controlled Southeast Europe, Southwest Asia and North Africa.

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